

**From:** Timothy Knowlton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 1:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

There are many flaws with the Proposed Final Judgment in the Microsoft case. The two that are most important to me are the following:

The Judgment does not prohibit Microsoft from retaliating against OEMs who ship PCs with a competing operating system but no Microsoft operating system. This means that OEMs will *\*still\** be forced to deliver machines loaded with Microsoft operating systems to avoid financial and distribution penalties imposed by the software giant. This is not acceptable. To create a habitable environment for competing operating systems, OEMs *\*must\** be able to distribute PCs that use those OSes exclusively.

The Judgment does not require the release of MS Office file formats. Since a file format is not covered by the definition of an API, its release is not required. But those formats are some of the most crucial parts to constructing competing products in the Office Suite field. Sun has made excellent progress on StarOffice, a competing suite, but still lacks complete interoperability with Microsoft Office because these file formats have never been released. In order to stimulate competition in the Office market, the file formats must be released to the public.

I urge those involved NOT to accept this Proposed Final Judgment. These are just two of the many loopholes that would only allow Microsoft to continue its anti-competitive practices in the face of a legal decision. Please take the time to reconsider the ramifications of this settlement.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tim Knowlton